

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR KN KS

SUBJ: REPORTED NORTH KOREAN CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 238646, (B) PARIS 28436

1. ACCORDING TO MOFA INFORMATION DIVISION CHIEF KIM CHAE-YONG, THERE HAVE BEEN NO NORTH KOREAN CALLS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. OTHER THAN THE ONE REPORTED FROM PARIS. WE HAVE COPIES OF WIRE STORIES FILED FROM PARIS BY BOTH REUTERS AND ANSA, THE ITALIAN NEWS AGENCY, QUOTING A VISITING NORTH KOREAN "SPECIAL ENVOY" IN PARIS AS CALLING FOR "DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. TO SIGN A PEACE TREATY." FULL TEXTS OF REUTERS AND PARTIAL TEXT OF ANSA COPY FOLLOW BELOW:

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. QUOTE PARIS, SEPTEMBER 22, REUTER:

(A) A NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL SAID HERE TODAY HIS COUNTRY WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE A PEACE TREATY DIRECTLY WITH THE UNITED STATES TO REPLACE THE QUARTER CENTURY OLD ARMISTICE ACCORDS.

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(B) MR. LI JONG HYOK, A SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT AND MEMBER OF THE KOREA-FRANCE FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO CONCLUDE A PERMANENT PEACE TREATY TO AVOID CLASHES IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA.

(C) "FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT AT PANMUNJOM IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA THIS SUMMER, A HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE SITUATION EXISTS IN KOREA THAT COULD WELL LEAD TO A NUCLEAR WAR," HE SAID.

(D) "THE GOVERNMENT OF THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA RENEWS ITS PROPOSAL FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES TO SIGN A PEACE TREATY," LI JONG HYOK SAID. "WE WISH TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE THE AMERICANS HOLD THE EFFECTIVE POWER IN SOUTH KOREA AND NO ONE ELSE," HE ADDED.

(E) SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE PROMPTLY REJECTED THE NORTH KOREAN PROPOSAL AS A "STUPID, MEANINGLESS MANEUVER BOUND TO FAIL."

(F) ONE SEOUL OFFICIAL SAID: "THE NORTH KOREANS, WHO ARE TRYING TO TRICK THE AMERICAN FORCES OUT OF KOREA, KNOW ONLY TOO WELL THAT THERE CAN BE NO PEACE TREATY EXCLUDING THE SOUTH KOREAN PEOPLE, THE MAIN PARTY CONCERNED."

(G) MR. LI JONG HYOK, HOLDING ONE OF THE RARE PRESS CONFERENCES ORGANIZED BY THE NORTH KOREAN MISSION TO FRANCE, SAID THAT A PEACE TREATY WOULD REPLACE THE PRESENT ARMISTICE ACCORDS AND ELIMINATE PERSISTING THREATS OF WAR.

(H) MR. LI JONG HYOK DENOUNCED THE SALE OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS BY CANADA AND FRANCE TO SOUTH KOREA. "SALES OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL TO SEOUL COULD LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ATOMIC WEAPONS IN SOUTH KOREA," HE SAID. END QUOTE.

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3. ACCORDING TO THE BADLY GARBLED ANSA REPORT, THE NORTH KOREAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARIS TOGETHER WITH THE CO-FOUNDER
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OF THE JAPAN CHAPTER OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, YASUYO KAWADA, AND A PAINTER, LEE HI CHU. THE ANSA ACCOUNT, RELEVANT SECTION OF WHICH FOLLOWS, IS LARGELY A POLEMICAL ATTACK ON SOUTH KOREA AND THE U.S.

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4. QUOTE PARIS, SEPTEMBER 22, ANSA:

(A) THE TENSE SITUATION HOLDING SWAY IN KOREA THREATENS WORLD PEACE, ACCORDING TO NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE LI JONG HYOK IN A PRESS CONFERENCE (GARBLE).

(B) OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE INCLUDED YASUYO KAWADA, CO-FOUNDER OF THE JAPANESE SECTION OF "AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND PAINTER LEE HI CHEE, MEMBER OF THE FRENCH-BASED ASSOCIATION FOR THE REUNIFICATION OF KOREA.

(C) LI JONG HYOK, WHO TERMED THE AUGUST 18 PANMUNJOM BORDER INCIDENT "A PREMEDITATED AND DELIBERATE PROVOCATION, ORGANIZED BY THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH KOREA", REITERATED THAT THE "KOREAN TRAGEDY" CAN BE OVERCOME ONLY THROUGH THE COUNTRY'S REUNIFICATION.

(D) FOR THIS REASON, (GARBLE) IT IS NECESSARY TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE UNITED STATES, WHICH "HOLDS EFFECTIVE POWER IN THE SOUTH, INCLUDING THE "PREROGATIVE OF SUPREME COMMAND OVER SOUTH KOREAN ARMED FORCES, AND WHICH IS ONE OF THE SIGNERS OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT", TO REACH A PEACE ACCORD WHICH WOULD ANNUL THE MAIN FACTORS OF THE TENSION AND THE THREAT OF WAR IN KOREA....
END QUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED, BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE:

5. KIM SAID HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE NORTH KOREAN "SPECIAL ENVOY" IN PARIS SPEAKS WITH ANY PARTICULAR AUTHORITY AND SAID THAT HE APPEARED TO BE PEDDLING THE SAME OLD PRE-PANMUNJOM INCIDENT LINE. WE ARE, IN VIEW OF DIATRIBE WHICH ANSA ACCOUNT REPORTS ACCOMPANIED PROPOSAL, INCLINED TO THINK THAT LI MAY WELL BE JUST A WANDERING NORTH KOREAN MINSTREL WHO DOES NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE LATEST WORD.
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